[21st March 1934

## Excise

*Remodelling of the Excise Licensing Boards and the Excise Advisory Committees.*

* 807 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether proposals have been called for from the Collectors to remodel the Excise Licensing Boards and the Excise Advisory Committees;

(*b*) whether the Government have arrived at any decision regarding them;

(*c*) whether they will be published and public criticism invited before final orders are passed; and

(*d*) whether the proposals will be placed on the table of the House to enable the House to raise a discussion, if necessary?

*A.*—(*a*) The Government invited the views of the Commissioner of Excise who consulted Collectors.

(*b*) The subject is under the consideration of the Government.

(*c*) & (*d*) Government do not consider it necessary or desirable to do so.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Education and Excise what the nature of the proposals under the consideration of the Government is? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" The answer to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) says that the Government do not consider it necessary or desirable to place the proposals on the table of the House."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know why they are considered confidential? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Public interests do not require that they should be laid on the table at this stage."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" With reference to (*d*), may I know when the Government will come to a decision on this matter? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" As early as possible."

*Opening a foreign liquor shop at Namakkal.*

* 808 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received from the people of Namakkal (Salem district) to open a foreign liquor shop at Namakkal; and

(*b*) what the result of the representation was?

*A.*—(*a*) & (*b*) A petition, dated 6th February 1934, signed by K. N. Venkatarama Chetti and others of Namakkal was received by the Government and was transferred for disposal to the Commissioner of Excise who has to deal with applications for such licences.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]**

## II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1934–35.

### DEMAND XV—AGENT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS—RESERVED.

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

'*that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs.* 12,300 *under Demand XV—Agent for Government Consignments—Reserved.*' "

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" Sir, I move—

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs.* 12,300 *for Agent for Government Consignments—Reserved, by Rs.* 100.'

In my district there are seaport stations, called Vadarevu, Nizampet and Kothapeta. Till recently Nizampet was a recognized port and we were agitating for the recognition of Vadarevu also as a seaport. As Vadarevu is not a recognized port, large quantities of groundnuts to the extent of one lakh and odd tons, have now to be carried to Masulipatam for exporting purposes. As the producer has to pay railway freight on all this from Guntur to Masulipatam, he is not getting full value for his produce. If Vadarevu is recognized as a port, we could export all our produce from there and avoid this transhipment to Masulipatam. Recently a limited company has been formed there to encourage export trade and facilitate the recognition of Vadarevu as a seaport and they have constructed several small boats for carrying these products, etc., to the sea-going vessels. One or two private companies have looked into this question and have come to the conclusion that in the business interests it would be very desirable to convert Vadarevu into a seaport. As a matter of fact one European company has promised to make Vadarevu into a port at a cost of 10 or 12 lakhs if only they would be permitted to change the name Vadarevu into the donor's name. That is why I request that this may be recognized as a port. But, as I said, when we are agitating for converting Vadarevu into a port, the authorities took away from the recognized list Nizampet port also. It means that when we wanted more what we had has been taken away. I request the Hon. Member who has himself visited Vadarevu to consider this question. As a matter of fact, even in the days when we had no connexion with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, Vadarevu was a thriving seaport doing big export and import business as is evident from what is left of the old godowns, etc., to be seen there. The hon. Member himself has seen this also. I request him to recognize Vadarevu as a port."